accessing means for accessing segments responsive to the automatic application of said viewer's content preferences to the segment definitions, whereby a player means for playing the accessed segments plays said accessed segments as a continuous program.

44. The video editing system of claim 43, wherein said program defining means defines segments comprising at least one segment selected from the group consisting of a parallel segment, an overlapping segment, and a transitional segment.

45. The video editing system of claim 43, wherein said content defining means comprise a segment rating means having at least one of plurality of content categories and associated rating levels and wherein said at least one category comprises a category selected from the group consisting of a form of expression category, a subject matter category, an element development category, an expertise level category, a detail level category, and a program length category.

46. The video editing system of claim 43, further comprising:
control means for controlling access to at least one of the means of said video editing system responsive to a viewer's identification.

47. The video editing system of claim 43, wherein the segment definitions and the content definitions are interactively modifiable by at least one viewer.

48.   The video editing system of claim 43, wherein said accessing means further provides for the sequential access to an editor specified sub-set of segments to permit said editor to preview the segments to determine their inclusion in a program.

49.   The video editing system of claim 43, wherein said segment defining means further comprises the means for dividing a programbase into at least one segment.

50.   A video editing system, comprising:
program source means for providing at least one program;

defining means for defining at least one segment of said at least one program responsive to a category and rating structure;

descriptor means for assigning at least one defined segment a descriptor responsive to the defining category and rating structure; and

mapping means for producing a segment map responsive to the at least one segment definition and descriptor, whereby a playing system automatically provides a continuous version of said at least one program responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

51.   The video editing system of claim 50, wherein said program source comprises a single program source selected from the group consisting of a laser readable device, a magnetic storage device, an electronic memory device, and a remote program provider.

52. The video editing system of claim 50, wherein said program source means is a programbase source means and wherein the provided at least one program comprises segments from at least one of the programs in said programbase source means.

53. The video editing system of claim 50, wherein said at least one program comprises at least one of a segment selected from the group consisting of a parallel segment, overlapping segment, and transitional segment, whereby a playing system provides a seamless version of said at least one program responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

54. The video editing system of claim 50, wherein said category and rating structure is a preestablished category and rating structure comprising at least one category selected from the group consisting of a violence category, a nudity category, a bloodshed category, a profanity category, a detail category, an expertise category, a character development category, and an inclusion category.

55. The video editing system of claim 50, wherein said category and rating structure comprises both preestablished category and rating structures and at least one editor defined category and rating structure.

56. The video editing system of claim 50, further comprising:
eliciting means for eliciting and storing at least one viewer's content preferences; and

accessing means for accessing segments responsive to the automatic application of said viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

57. The video editing cession of claim 56, wherein said viewer's content preferences are preestablished.

58. The video editing system of claim 50, further comprising:
accessing and communications means for obtaining a viewer's content preferences and transmitting a continuous version of said at least one program responsive to the application of said viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

59. The video editing system of claim 50, further comprising:
eliciting means for eliciting and storing at least one viewer's content preferences, and at least one viewer's identification; and

control means for controlling access to at least one of the means of said video editing system responsive to a viewer's identification.

60. The video editing system of claim 50, wherein said segment map comprises segment definitions, descriptors, and linkages.

61. The video editing system of claim 50, further comprising:
eliciting means for eliciting and storing at least one viewer's content preferences; and

retrieving means for selectively retrieving segments of said at least one program from said program source responsive to the application of said viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

62. The video editing system of claim 61, further comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting said selectively retrieved segments as a continuous version of said at least one program.

63. The video editing system of claim 50, wherein said at least one program comprises at least one of a segment selected from the group consisting of a parallel segment, overlapping segment, and transitional segment, further comprising:

eliciting means for eliciting and storing at least one viewer's content preferences;

retrieving means for selectively retrieving segments of said at least one program from said program source responsive to the application of said viewer's content preferences to said segment map; and

transmitting means for transmitting said selectively retrieved segments as a seamless version of said at least one program.

64. The video editing system of claim 63, further comprising:

control means for controlling access to at least one of the means of said video editing system responsive to a viewer's identification.

65. A video editing system, comprising:
program source means for providing at least one program;

defining means for defining a plurality of segments of said at least one program, the segment definitions comprising frame identifiers;

descriptor means for defining contents of at least one segment of said at least one program;

mapping means linking said plurality of segments, whereby segments of said at least one program are automatically sequenced responsive to a viewer's content preferences.

66. The video editing system of claim 65, wherein said segment defining means and descriptor means are responsive to a preestablished category and rating structure.

67. The video editing system of claim 65, wherein a video segment is associated with a plurality of audio segments, whereby one of said plurality of audio segments is automatically played with said associated video segment responsive to a viewer's content preferences.

68. A video editing system, for editing videos by means of a preestablished category and rating structure, comprising:

segment reviewing means for reviewing content of each of a plurality of segments in a video and assigning a segment definition and descriptor responsive to an appropriate category and rating scale in said preestablished category and rating structure;

segment transitioning means for retaining continuity between non-continuous segments; and

mapping means for producing a segment map, whereby a playing system automatically provides a continuous version of said video responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

69. A video editing system for a program having one or more scenes, wherein at least one scene has a plurality of versions; comprising:

categorizing means for establishing at least one category of scenes according to their content;

rating means for associating a rating scale with each of the established categories;

assigning means for assigning at least one version of a scene a category and a rating from said associated rating scale responsive to the contents of the scene;

mapping means for producing a segment map; and

random accessing means for randomly accessing scenes and versions of scenes and for automatically producing a continuous version of said program responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

70. The video editing system of claim 69, further comprising:

communications means for obtaining a viewer's content preferences and transmitting a continuous version of said program responsive to the application of said viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

71. The video editing system of claim 69, further comprising:

playing means for automatically playing said continuous version of said program.

72. A video editing system, comprising:
program source means for providing at least one program;

defining means for defining segments of said program responsive to an at least one keyword;

descriptor means for assigning defined segments a descriptor responsive to the defining at least one keyword; and

mapping means for producing a segment map, whereby a playing system automatically provides a continuous version of said program responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

73. A video editing system comprising:
segment defining means for dividing a video program into at least one segment;

content defining means for defining contents of said at least one segment in accordance with content keywords; and

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segment retrieving means for retrieving said at least one defined segment responsive to said keywords.

74. A method of editing a program, comprising:
defining segments of said program responsive to a preestablished category and rating structure;

assigning defined segments a descriptor responsive to the defining category and rating structure; and

producing a segment map, whereby a playing system automatically provides a continuous version of said program responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

75. The method of editing a program of claim 74, wherein said preestablished category and rating structure comprises at least one category selected from the group consisting of a violence category, a nudity category, a bloodshed category, a profanity category, a detail category, an expertise category, a character development category, and an inclusion category.

76. A method of editing a program comprising video and content information previously stored on a program source, comprising:
using retrieving means for retrieving said programs' content information from said program source;

using preference means for retrieving a viewer's content preferences;

using retrieving means for selectively retrieving segments
of said program's video from said program source responsive to
the application of said viewer's content preferences to said
program's content information; and

using transmission means for transmitting said selectively
retrieved segments as a continuous version of said program.

77. The method of editing a program of claim 76, wherein
said viewer's content preferences are retrieved from a memory
means for storing said viewer's content preferences and wherein
said viewer's content preferences are preestablished.

78. The method of editing a program of claim 76, wherein
said viewer's content preferences are retrieved from a viewer
responsive to said program's content information.

79. The method of editing a program of claim 76, wherein
said program source comprises a single program source selected
from the group consisting of a laser readable device, a magnetic
storage device, an electronic memory device, and a remote program
provider.

80. The method of editing a program of claim 76, wherein
said program comprises at least one of a segment selected from
the group consisting of a parallel segment, overlapping segment,
and transitional segment, whereby said selectively retrieved
segments comprise a seamless version of said program's video.

81. The method of editing a program of claim 76, wherein
said viewer's content preferences and said program's content
information are responsive to a category and rating structure.

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82. The method of editing a program of claim 81, wherein said category and rating structure is a preestablished category and rating structure comprising at least one category selected from the group consisting of a violence category, a nudity category, a bloodshed category, a profanity category, a detail category, an expertise category, a character development category, and an inclusion category.
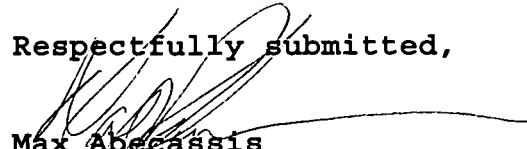
83. A method of editing a news program, comprising:
defining segments of said news program responsive to at least one category and rating structure wherein said at least one category and rating structure comprises a preestablished category for detail and a corresponding detail rating scale;

assigning defined segments a descriptor responsive to the defining category and rating structure; and

producing a segment map, whereby a playing system automatically provides a continuous version of said news program responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

84. The method of editing a news program of claim 83, wherein said news program comprises at least one of a segment selected from the group consisting of a parallel segment, overlapping segment, and transitional segment, whereby a playing system automatically provides a seamless version of said news program responsive to the application of a viewer's content preferences to said segment map.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Abecassis
Applicant
305-932-1257

July 26, 1993